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Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

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## International Journal of Polymeric Materials

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713647664>

### Preface

V. A. Marikhin; L. P. Myasnikova

**To cite this Article** Marikhin, V. A. and Myasnikova, L. P.(1993) 'Preface', International Journal of Polymeric Materials, 22: 1, vii

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/00914039308012051

**URL:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00914039308012051>

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## Preface

The 25th European Macromolecular Physics Conference on Orientational Phenomena in Polymers held in St. Petersburg, Russia on July 6–10, 1992. It was organized by the European Physical Society (Section on Macromolecular Physics), the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute, and the Institute of Macromolecular Compounds.

The Conference brought together the leading experimental and theoretical scientists studying the behavior of macromolecules on their orientation in mechanical, electrical, magnetic and other fields. It provided an opportunity to review the current achievements and to assess the rich potential the alignment of long molecules still holds for the future. The Conference was attended by about 130 investigators from 46 universities, research centers and several firms.

This volume contains a short review of invited lectures and a number of poster papers that have not been published elsewhere. The full invited lectures will be published in a special issue of *Progress in Colloid and Polymer Science*. The accepted posters were presented in four sessions on (i) the mechanisms and theories of molecular orientation in polymer systems; (ii) experimental techniques for producing oriented polymers with special mechanical, optical, electrical, and other properties; (iii) the structure/property relationships in oriented polymers; (iv) defects and fracture of oriented polymers.

The papers collected in this volume are concerned with the mechanisms of molecular orientation, the influence of nature and characteristics of molecules and of the supermolecular structure on the ability of macromolecules to be oriented, on the mechanical, optical, thermal, and other properties of oriented polymeric materials. They also discuss the defects in polymer systems preventing the achievement of theoretical properties, the fine mechanisms of polymer deformation and creep, the specific behavior of LC polymers, the techniques developed, etc.

This book is intended for a wide range of chemists and physicists working in fundamental and applied polymer science, as well as for engineers, graduate and undergraduate students. The diversity of topics and approaches will give an adequate picture of the state of the art in this rapidly developing area. The reader will also become familiar with research in Russia, perhaps not too widely known outside this country.

We are very grateful to the staff of the Editorial Office at the Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute for their contribution to editing and preparation of a camera-ready copy.

V. A. Marikhin and L. P. Myasnikova  
Conference Co-Editors